

November 2015

GARNER

UPDATE

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IN THIS EDITION



Town prepares for holiday events. See page 3.



Veterans Day observance planned. See page 3.

TOWN HALL CALENDAR

Nov. 17: Town Council regular meeting (7 p.m.)

Nov. 24: Town Council work session (6 p.m.)

Nov. 26-27: TOWN HALL CLOSED (THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY)

Dec. 7: Town Council regular meeting (7 p.m.)

Meetings are in the Council Chambers in building B at Town Hall, 900 7th Ave. Town Council regular meetings are recorded and broadcast (not live) on GTV11 (Time Warner 11, AT&T U-verse 99).



/townofgarner



The Texas-based Jones Family Singers anchor another outstanding **It's Showtime!** series with a concert on Feb. 21.

GPAC Series Boasts Exciting Range of Acts

The **It's Showtime!** series at Garner Performing Arts Center will bring more great nationally touring acts to town in 2016. Here's what's on tap:

The Jones Family Singers Feb. 21, 4 p.m.

Bishop Jones and his talented group take gospel to a whole new level, infusing it with vintage soul, funk and R&B delivered in an infectiously dynamic performance. They have been featured in *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*. *Rolling Stone* called them one of the top acts to see at South By Southwest in Austin, Texas, in 2014. They have performed in places such as the Lincoln Center, New York's globalFEST and The

Broadway Voices launches another impressive season this month. See page 3.

Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

The Steel Wheels March 19, 7:30 p.m.

The Steel Wheels have captured audiences across the country with their heady brew of original soulful mountain music and deep commitment to roots and community. Based in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, this dynamic four-piece string band marries old-time musical traditions with their own innovative sound and lifestyle, generating a truly magnetic revival.

please see GPAC on page 4



You can follow
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A Message from the Mayor



You can watch the mayor's award-winning "Great People in Garner" on demand at youtube.com/townofgarner.

Garner had another very successful Trick-or-Eat food truck rodeo a couple of weeks ago along Main Street.



Kudos are due to the Garner Revitalization Association and Town staff for ensuring that the event turned out so well. I'm told that attendance was over 3,000 people.

Downtown Garner will be the focal point of a lot of other fun and popular activities in the coming weeks. Broadway Voices kicks off

on Nov. 21 at Garner Performing Arts Center, then our two signature holiday events—Light Up Main and the Garner Christmas Parade—happen Dec. 4-5. When you come to Light Up Main, don't forget to bring a donation for Toys for 'Lil' Troops, which will deliver new, unused toys to the children of deployed or low-income service members over the holidays.

Every thriving community needs a place that is its heart. Downtown Garner is becoming that place for our community. The Town of Garner has been investing in the

downtown—whether it be GPAC or the Senior Center or Main Street improvements—for decades. In the coming months and years, you'll see additional major investment (thanks to the voter-approved bond program) in things like the recreation center and sidewalks. These investments will spur private investment, and, in time, we'll be able to see the heart of Garner grow and prosper.

See you downtown!

Ronnie S. Williams

Veterans Day Event to be Held at Garner Church

The Garner community will come together to observe Veterans Day at Aversboro Road Baptist Church (1600 Aversboro Road) on Wednesday, **Nov. 11**. The event starts at 10:30 a.m. with a patriotic mini-concert by the Garner Magnet High School Wind Ensemble, which will also perform the National Anthem at the event. The start of the formal program is at 11 a.m. with a welcome by master of ceremonies, retired U.S. Army Major General Charles Scott.

Keynote speaker will be state Rep. Gary Pendleton, a retired brigadier general and former member and chair of the Wake County Board of Commissioners. Mayor Ronnie Williams will also speak. In addition, there will be performances by David Kamphuis, Dana Stephenson Dixon and the Aversboro Elementary School Fourth- and Fifth-Grade Performance Chorus.

TOWN OF GARNER BOND PROGRAM

Town Hall Plans Approved; Ribbon Cutting to be Held for Park Project

The Town Council at its Nov. 2 meeting approved the special use permit and site plan for the new Town Hall, to be built on the existing Town Hall campus at 900 7th Ave. The project will get underway in early 2016, with Town staff moving to temporary space at 914 7th Ave. and in the police annex building at 400 Aversboro Road.

The new Town Hall will be a two-story, 26,344-square-foot building and is expected to be completed by mid-2017.

Another bond program project has been wrapped up and is just about ready for use. There will be a ribbon cutting at the new South Garner Park concessions building on Nov. 18 at 2 p.m.



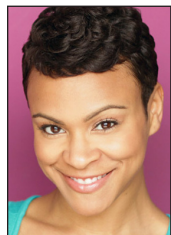
The new Town Hall will be built on the existing Town Hall campus at 900 7th Ave. and should be completed in 2017.

In other bond program news, the Garner Police Department should be moving into its new headquarters at 912 7th Ave. in the coming weeks. That will enable Southeast Regional Library to move into the existing police station at 900 7th Ave. (see related article on page 4).



Broadway Voices Brings New York to Garner

Another season of Garner Performing Arts Center's award-winning Broadway Voices series gets underway **Nov. 21** with a show by **Carly Hughes** at 7:30 p.m. Individual tickets for the show are \$35 and can be purchased at garner-performingartscenter.com.



Carly Hughes

With eight Broadway shows to her name, Hughes has quickly established herself as a recognizable talent,

both onstage and off. She has most recently starred as Velma Kelly in "Chicago" on Broadway and The Leading Player in "Pippin." Other Broadway credits include "The Book of Mormon," "Ghost," "Ragtime," "Putnam County Spelling Bee" and "The Grinch."

The series resumes on **Jan. 30** at 7:30 p.m. with a performance by **Hugh Panaro**, who has been described as "the leader of Broadway's dwindling supply of great leading men." His long list of credentials includes "The Phantom of the Opera,"

"Martin Guerre," "Gentleman Prefer Blondes," "Les Miserables," "Sunday in the Park with George," "Merrily We Roll Along," "Sweeney Todd" and "Company."

David Burnham will close out the season on **April 30** at 7:30 p.m. Burnham was last seen on Broadway in the mega-hit musical "Wicked," playing Fiyero, a role that he originated in the developmental workshops of the show. He is the recipient of the prestigious Helen Hayes Award for best actor and Garland Award for best actor.

Town Preparing for Popular Annual Holiday Events

Get ready to ring in the holidays with Garner Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources with its two annual Christmas events.

First, on Friday **Dec. 4**, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., join us on Main Street for **Light Up Main**, the Town's annual Christmas tree lighting. Santa and Mayor Ronnie Williams will flip the switch to the Town tree, welcoming guests to the event. This will be followed by a local holiday talent showcase full of singers and dancers from the Garner area.

While you're there, shop for Christmas goodies, make crafts, visit with Santa and, most important, make a donation to Toys for 'Lil' Troops, which will deliver new, unused toys to the children of deployed or low-income service members over the holidays. The Miss Garner Scholarship Pageant will be at the donation booth, and each new toy you donate will enter you in a chance to win tickets to some wonderful shows at Garner Performing Arts Center.



The big man himself is coming to town Dec. 4-5.

And what Christmas would be complete without a parade? Grab a front-row seat and join the Garner Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department as marching bands, floats, classic cars, Santa Claus and many other entries make their way through downtown Garner in the annual **Garner Christmas Parade** on Saturday, **Dec. 5** at 2 p.m. This year's parade theme is "Home

For the Holidays," a celebration of home and family. This is a wonderful way to show support to your local organizations while getting to know some new ones in the area.

More information on both events, including how to get involved, can be found at garnernc.gov/holiday or by emailing Jill McAllister at jmcallister@garnernc.gov.



You can follow Garner PRCR on Twitter (@GarnerPRCR).



Assistant Town Manager Earns Honor

Assistant Town Manager-Operations Rodney Dickerson recently received the credentialed manager designation from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). He is now one of over



1,300 local government management professionals credentialed through the ICMA Voluntary Credentialing Program.

To receive the prestigious ICMA credential, a member must have significant experience as a senior management executive in local government; have earned a degree, preferably in public administration or a related field; and have demonstrated a commitment

to high standards of integrity and to lifelong learning and professional development.

Dickerson is qualified by 14 and a half years of professional local government executive experience. Prior to his appointment in 2004 as assistant town manager of the Town of Garner, he served as assistant to the town manager for over three years. Prior to joining the Town of Garner in 2001, he served as a code enforcement official for the Town of Cary for eight years.

Highlights of Dickerson's ICMA membership include completion of Leadership-ICMA in 2013, which involved graduation from the Senior Executive Institute program. He has been a presenter at the ICMA annual

conference on a couple of occasions.

Dickerson completed the UNC-CH Public Executive Leadership Academy in 2007. He earned his bachelor's degree from Duke University in 1990 and a master's of public administration from N.C. State University in 2001.

Dickerson has also made significant contributions to a number of other organizations, including the N.C. City/County Management Association, in which he serves on the Executive Committee and as chair of the state conference program committee. He also served as the local government representative on the State Building Commission from 2009-2012.

Temporary Library Location Opens in Old Police Station in December

As you may know by now, the Southeast Regional Library in Garner has closed for renovations and will reopen next May.

The current Garner police station at 900 7th Ave. will serve as the temporary location for the library starting in December. The facility will become available for library use when construction of the new police station is completed and the library can upfit and move into the old police station.

The temporary library will offer programming for young children, a browsing collection for all ages, some public computers, a book request service and a book return. Hours of operation for the temporary facility will be Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Friday-Saturday



Southeast Regional Library closed for renovations in late October.

from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Until the temporary facility is available, library users are encouraged to visit any of the other 19 library locations within Wake County Public Libraries. The closest full-service libraries to Southeast Regional Library include Cameron Village Regional Library and East Regional Library.

GPAC

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Natural Wonder May 14, 7:30 p.m.

Natural Wonder, the Ultimate Stevie Wonder Experience, has wowed audiences since its inception in 2012. The act has played large venues such as The House of Blues, The Fillmore in Charlotte, the Downtown Cabaret in Bridgeport, Conn., and the Speaking Rock Casino in El Paso, Texas.

Tickets for all of these shows can be purchased at garnerperforming-artscenter.com, by calling the box office at (919) 661-4602 Monday-Friday between 1:30 p.m. and 5 p.m., or by visiting the box office during those same business hours. The It's Showtime! series also includes the free **Showcase of Talent**, which has two installments at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on **Feb. 27**.



Learn more about the Garner Bond Program at garnerbonds.com.